

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-6, 8 and 10-22 are pending. Claims 5 and 13 were objected to but were otherwise deemed allowable. Claims 5 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 6 and 14 which relate to vertex-based transformation using graphics processing units of the personal computer, have also been rewritten in independent form. Original claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-22 were rejected either under 35 USC 102 or 35 USC 103 over Driscoll, Jr. et al. These rejections are traversed in regard to the pending claims. Reconsideration is requested.

Applicant claims a “real-time” panoramic imaging system. Driscoll, Jr. et al do not disclose a real-time panoramic imaging system. Applicant’s disclosed and claimed system uses an extremely high speed graphics processing unit unwrapping software such as vertex-based transformation as opposed to pixel-by-pixel unwrapping. As a result, Applicant’s system is capable of viewing in 360° and presenting an unwrapping computer image of the entire 360° scene without any perceptible delay. Driscoll, Jr. et al cannot achieve this “real-time” image capability because Driscoll, Jr. et al is just too slow. Driscoll, Jr. et al must store the annular video (see Driscoll FIG. 13A-item 1230) to permit conversion over time into a video image that can be shown in rectangular format. Otherwise, Driscoll, Jr. et al cannot show the entire image. See for example Driscoll at column 10, lines 52-55. “furthermore, by only transforming a portion of the annular image into normal video, the transformation can be done in real-time without requiring exceedingly fast computer equipment”.

Applicant’s system as described and claimed does not have this significant disadvantage. Applicant uniquely employs time-saving vertex (corner) based transformation to achieve a 30-fold improvement in speed of unwrapping to obviate

intermediate storage and to permit real-time display of the "entire" annular image in an ordinary personal computer, not just a small portion of the annular image per Driscoll. The Applicant's specification explains this unique capability and significant advantage over Driscoll, Jr. et al at page 25, lines 1-20. For these reasons, the pending claims as amended herein, are clearly distinguishable and patentable over the art of record. Applicant is the only one who teaches and claims a truly "real-time" panoramic video imaging system for viewing a complete annular 360° scene as a standard 30 fps rectangular display.

For all of the aforementioned reasons, the rejections based on Driscoll, Jr. et al should be withdrawn and pending claims 2-6, 8 and 10-22 should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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